



Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

# Department of Environmental Protection

One Winter Street Boston, MA 02108 • 617-292-5500

Charles D. Baker  
Governor

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**MassDEP's Official Answers to Questions  
Regarding the August 30, 2021  
Water Management Act Grant Program  
Agency Document #: BWR-2022-WMA**

**September 20, 2021**

On August 30, 2021, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) posted a grant Request for Responses (RFR) for the Water Management Act Grant Program (WMA Program). In accordance with the deadlines set forth in the RFR's grant procurement calendar, MassDEP accepted written questions via email through the September 13, 2021 deadline.

MassDEP's Official Answers to Questions that were received by the deadline are presented below. In addition to reviewing the Official Answers below regarding the WMA program, applicants can also review summaries of prior WMA program projects that have been awarded grants. These summaries can be found under "Additional Resources" at : <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/water-management-act-grant-programs-for-public-water-suppliers> .

**Q1.** Please clarify "wastewater projects that keep water local". I am working on a new municipal effluent recharge site where there would be ~40-50' of infiltration to groundwater, and Conservation is tied in on making the finished surface into quality habitat to support biodiversity. I'd like to make sure the project would be eligible.

**A1. *MassDEP's objective is to keep treated wastewater discharges as close to the withdrawal point as possible. Without knowing all the specifics of your proposed project, it appears based upon the description above that this project may be eligible, provided that meets the additional requirements in the RFR.***

**Q2.** Would this grant be able to finance the purchase of second water meters? That way, we could charge different rates for irrigation systems and track their use. My only concern is, if the bylaw won't

This information is available in alternate format. Contact Michelle Waters-Ekanem, Director of Diversity/Civil Rights at 617-292-5751.

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be passed until May 2022, would we still be eligible for this grant in this FY? If the grant is awarded to us, how long do we have to start executing the project/using the money?

***A2. Please see Page 7 of the RFR. While demand management projects and mitigation projects to reduce the impacts of water withdrawals or development on streamflow or aquatic habitat in a basin or subbasin are eligible for funding, adding second water meters alone may not impact water withdrawals and therefore would not score well as a competitive project. Increasing billing frequency or revising town water billing rates to include conservation rates for outdoor water use in concert with adding second water meters would more effectively reduce demand/withdrawals overall. It should also be noted that the WMA grant funds are for projects that can be completed during the grant timeframe, which is from contract signing (usually December or January) to June 30, 2022. You may want to consider restructuring the proposal to address the issues above, and then applying for WMA grant funds in the next round if the grant program is available and the grant timeframe would not allow for work to be done this year.***

**Q3.** I have a project (new source) under construction now, which will mitigate withdrawal from other sources impacted by PFAS. We need \$500,000 to complete. Can we submit grant application for this project?

***A3. No; please see Pages 7- 8 of the RFR. Proposed projects focusing on treatment design or construction to address PFAS contamination are not eligible for the WMA grant program.***

**Q4.** Given the COVID situation, what do you/MassDEP think about any proposal that requires some in-person transactions?

***A4. While the Governor declared a State of Emergency on March 10, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation, that State of Emergency and all Public Health Orders issued pursuant to the Emergency were terminated on June 15, 2021. Therefore, with respect to any required safety precautions or limitations on in-person transactions due to ongoing concerns regarding the COVID-19 virus, MassDEP would defer to the local requirements of the individual municipality or other entity conducting in-person transactions in connection with the implementation of any proposed project.***